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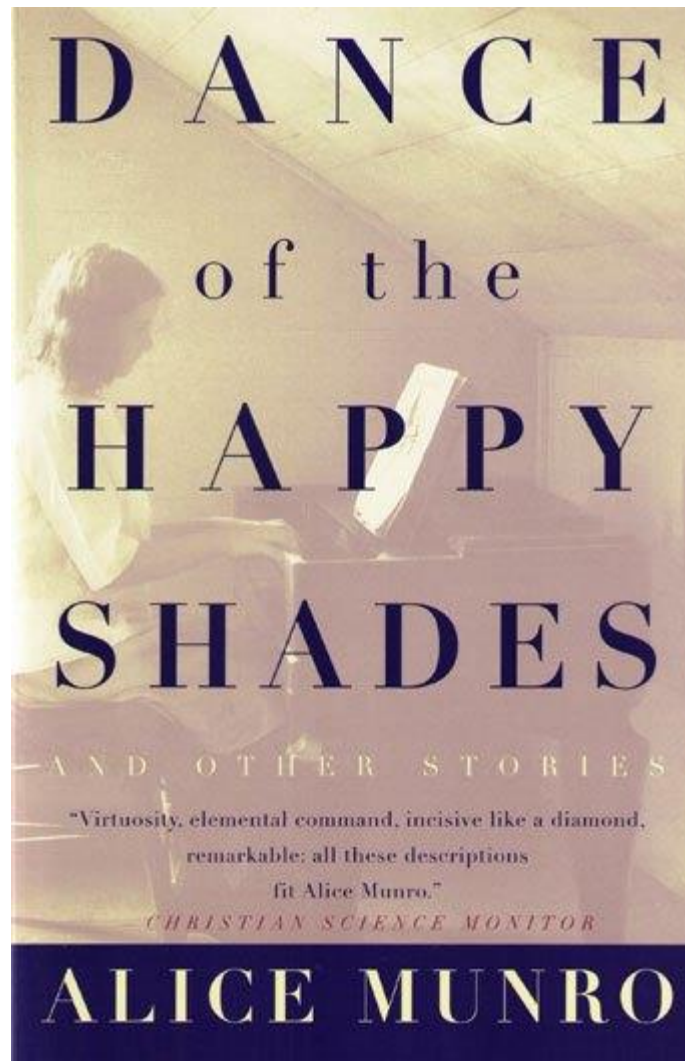
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## Voiceless Suffering of Myra Salya's Life in *Day of The Butterfly*

S. Akila, III B.A. English

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### Abstract

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This paper describes and discusses *the isolation* of Myra Salya in the short story by Alice Munro. The paper discusses also the life style of human beings. The oppression and suffering of Myra because of isolation were like a man living in fire and this way of life is lived by the protagonist in this short story. This *isolation* is also made because of her appearance which makes her to stand far from others and also that gives a great way of loneliness in her life. The character faces more suffering through loneliness.

*Isolation* (loneliness) will also show the wisdom and understanding of human relationship. Protagonist was able to face *the isolation* in this story. Isolation, at times can bring liberation. The protagonist finds liberation from the clutches of Isolation through friendship of Helen and she is the narrator of the story.

**Keywords:** Alice Munro, *Day of the Butterfly*, Isolation, human life style, suffering, loneliness, human Relationship.

### **Suffering and Voiceless**

This paper is deals with the work of Alice Munro's *Day of the Butterfly*. She was a Canadian writer. Canadian literature focuses on the culture, psychology, suffering, and loss of identity. This story deals with a girl's life. This paper focuses on the emotion, feeling, suffering the girl experienced in her life. In this research paper the researcher deals with Isolation of Myra Sayla in the short story of *Day of the Butterfly* by Alice Munro. This story reveals that suffering, voiceless condition, and loneliness will change the life.

### **Isolation can also happen because of one's appearance**

This idea forms the basis of this story *Day of the Butterfly*. Myra Sayla was also isolated because of her appearance and the way she behaves in the class. She does not mingle with anyone. Her unfavourable appearance is because of her family situation. She was from very poor family. Her father owned a fruit shop. The way she isolated herself from her classmates showed the great suffering and depression in her heart. She was also afraid of others. Her voice also

became very quiet and later silent. All this shows the impact of isolation that Myra Sayla faced in her life.

Myra also speaks about the isolation she feels

*“They had long smooth oval face, Melancholy and discreet-dark, oily, shining hair and Myra’s was worn in heavy braids coiled on top of head and so that when she looked from a Distance, it was as if she was wearing a turban too big for her” (Munro)*

Through this kind of description of her appearance itself we came to know that she appeared to be a little bit unattractive and she had a kind of smell on her body which made others to stay away from her. This was the main reason why she was isolated in her school. Not only that, she too won’t mingle with anyone. She would always be with her brother and none else. Even when her teacher asked the other students why no one joined with Myra, she got no answer. She says, “Everyday I see her standing in the block porch never playing”. She asks the students to accompany Myra.

The Teacher is the one who understands the real feeling of isolation that Myra is feeling. She sees that Myra is badly treated by the students as we see in these lines:

“What do you wash your hair with Myra, it’s so nice and shiny, Myra” Hose washed it in cod-liver oil. Don’t you,”

(Munro)

### **Social and Physical Isolation – Living the Life of a Butterfly**

And this kind of discrimination makes Myra to feel very sad. Through Myra, we also come to know that not only is she isolated socially, but physically too. Myra has a health problem which also isolated her more. She was affected by a disease called Leukaemia which was pronounced as ‘akemia’ by Gladys Wealey, the class Representative. These are the ways in which Myra was isolated. Because of that, she had lived a life like a ‘butterfly. Myra is called a ‘butterfly’ because, her life too is like a butterfly’s life. It has only a short period of life, but in

that also it has to struggle more to live that life. In the same way, Myra also lived a short period in her life with full of sadness, suffering and isolation. But this story has an open ending.

### Positive End?

This researcher believes that this story can be a positive one. Because this story has an open ending, the word ‘Good-bye’ which was said by Myra to her friends may have two meanings. It may refer not only to her saying goodbye to them. “Say good bye to isolation and isolation will start to isolate from us”. It may also refer to the idea that maybe after she recovered from her health problem she would have lived a happy life. She is saying goodbye to her life of isolation.

“A season of isolation/and loveliness is till the/ Caterpillar gets its wings.”

(Munro)

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### Works Cited

[https\\www.google.com](https://www.google.com)

[https\\ www.wikipdia.com](https://www.wikipdia.com)

Text Alice Munro

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